ELSEWHEN

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE TEMPORAL ANOMALY RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

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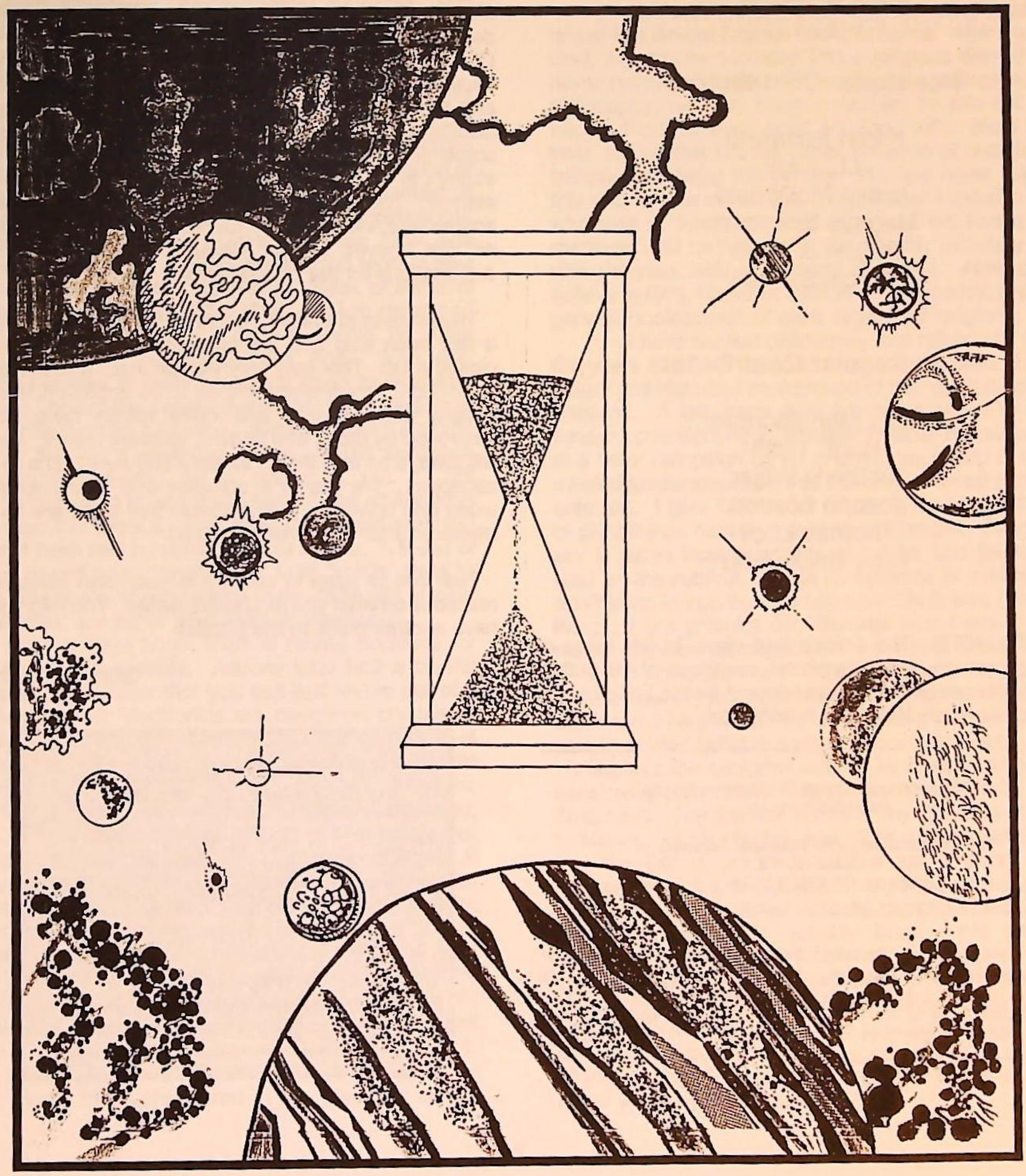
EXPLORING MYSTERIES OF TIME AND SPACE



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Volume One Number Two
Winter 89/90

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Message from the Editor

Welcome to the second issue of *Elsewhen*! I'm very excited about the positive response I've had from the first issue. Your comments and ideas have been very useful. In this issue we are beginning some of our regular columns. I hope you will enjoy this issue!

TARA is first and foremost a research organization. We try to approach every subject with an open mind and scientifically. You will find a wide variety of things in each issue of *Elsewhen*. Please excuse us if from time to time we sound like skeptics. There are a great deal of mistaken ideas and hoaxes in the field of the Unexplained. Our aim at TARA and in *Elsewhen* is twofold: To research and write on Mysteries of Time and Space, and to get more people interested in this fascinating field of research. If we discover that something is false, misleading, or a hoax, we will attempt to reveal all of the facts in a calm and coherent manner. The answers to most questions are out there somewhere, waiting to be found. When that answer is not yet known, we will discuss possible or logical explanations for the phenomenon.

The process of Enlightenment is not necessarily easy. It has been said that the hardest thing to open is a closed mind. That may very well be true. It took many centuries for the truths we know to be accepted. Many people with curiosity and open minds have been destroyed by those with narrow, ignorant minds. There will always be new things to learn and new truths to be accepted. We live in a complex and ever-changing world and universe. It is probable that there are some mysteries that will *never* be solved.

Feel free to jump in and share your own ideas and reactions on what you read in *Elsewhen*. You might just have another piece to the puzzle!

Mark R. Gardner

This Issue of Elsewhen
Is Dedicated to the Memory of

JIM CLARK
Valued Member of
The B.C. Cryptozoology Club

and

LOUIS K. BELL
"Metrologist Extraordinaire"
Friend of T.A.R.A.

EYE ON THE NEW AGE

By Bob Marx

Greetings to one and all! My first column in *Elsewhen*! I'm hoping that this will be the first of a long series of provocative and thought-provoking articles by yours truly. I've chosen **Eye on the New Age** as the first venue for my participation in T.A.R.A. Although I am writing this time about the New Age, which Marcia Stewart is interested in, I will also contribute to such columns as **The Oöpart Observer, Archeological Oddities, The Science Corner, Lost Civilizations,** and **Strange Places.** I hope you will enjoy my articles. Feel free to comment on them through the Letters column.

What do you feel about the New Age Movement? Do you really know that much about it? Actually, the group that calls itself that is as varied a group of persons as you can get. Things that go under the classification of "The New Age" are a wide range of pseudo-scientific or quasi-psychic beliefs or ideas. I think that Channeling and Crystals are the two best known of these New Age subjects. The New Age, though, is a blanket term at best and is not totally accurate. None of the ideas or subjects are especially new. Most of the ideas are just revamped forms of old ideas. Thus, I think it would be more accurate to call it the Not-So-New Age. You see, channeling entities is really the same thing as visiting a medium to contact the departed spirit of Uncle Herbert or Auntie Bertha through a séance -- except now it's Romthu or Xentar the Great speaking. One should approach Channeling with a bag full of grains of salt. I am especially interested in why those *helpful* and *all-knowing* entities from the Great Beyond have never said anything that hasn't been said by someone else before. A friend of mine has traced many "revelations" from "spirits" back to existing religious and philosophy texts. It would appear these "entities" are either plagiarists or imaginary.

On the other hand, there is strong evidence for some "powers" in crystals. Anyone who had a crystal radio as a child, knows that you can pull music out of a rock. Most of our electronics are based on crystals of some element or another. The piezoelectric properties of quartz are well known. So, it is very possible that people can derive some sort of benefit from crystals. I feel the properties (or abilities) of crystals are grossly exaggerated, though. I have a letter before me telling of a family that failed to get medical treatment for their critically ill daughter because they felt crystals would absorb the "bad stuff" inside of her. She ended up having major surgery, when antibiotics would have cured her. So, one should only use crystals *in addition to* standard medicine. And even if there are no "special" properties to crystals, they are still nice to look at. I used to collect them as a child and still have about a hundred pounds of quartz stored away in a several cardboard boxes. Come to think of it, I *have* always been very healthy and some of these various quartz rocks *are* stored in my bedroom closet. You never know... We'll talk more about the New Age and other things in the future. Peace.

Spotlight on Religion

By Marcia Stewart

Hello! Before I say anything else, I want to tell you a little about myself. Then, when you read what I write in *Elsewhen*, you won't make any uninformed or incorrect assumptions about me. Fair enough?

I am a divorced mother of two small girls who was raised in a devout Roman Catholic home. After my father died, my mother retreated into a religious daze that she never recovered from. While I went to college to study philosophy, my only brother decided to join the priesthood. I drifted away from religion. After more than a year, my brother left the Order because of unacceptable behavior amongst the priests. He has never explained this and is now an atheist. Years later I married a man who was a "fundamentalist" type and we had a happy marriage until he left me for the church secretary while I was pregnant with my second daughter. Although I do believe in God, I have no faith in the hypocrisy, greed and general godlessness of most organized religions.

I have studied philosophy and religion for twenty-five years and have come to many conclusions about the nature and historical background of the "great religions" of Mankind. A few years ago, I wrote a series of articles (under a pseudonym) for a "metaphysical" newsletter. Due to a letter campaign by an anonymous group of narrow-minded fundamentalists, that editor was forced to drop my columns. I give TARA a lot of credit for having the guts to print things here that may upset people. Everything I say is taken from hundreds of books and journals I've read on the subject, as well as opinions of colleagues. I *don't* jump to conclusions because this is how I make my living. I did promise Mr. Gardner that I would stop if reader opinion was negative. Be fair and open-minded.

Faith is *the* word in religion. One of the definitions in the dictionary says that faith is a firm belief in something that cannot be proven. Wrong! I have found that faith is usually a *blind* belief in something that cannot be proven. Throughout the centuries millions have suffered and died because of their beliefs. The problem begins with the Old Testament. The first few books of the Bible are attributed to Moses, yet philologists and other experts have *proven* that the first books of the Bible are a crazy quilt of *different* writers and styles over a period of many years. Most of the events never actually happened and most of the characters never actually lived. We persist in worshipping a piece of fiction written centuries ago by creative Hebrew writers. If we were to look at the stories realistically as creation myth and morality tales, and pick out wisdom like the Golden Rule and the Commandments, we would be in a lot better shape. Have you wondered why our loving God never forbade child abuse or slavery? I'll tell you why next issue.

Temporal Anomalies: Fortean Mysteries Explained?

by Mark R. Gardner

(This article is continued from the previous issue.)

Our last example of a *temporal dis-location* fits in with another classic type -- the vanishing inn story. In October 1979, two English couples -- the Simpsons and the Gisbys -- decided to drive through France and Spain on vacation. One evening, they stopped at an unusual ranch-style hotel for the night. They had been turned away from another place and were happy to find rooms available here. They spoke no French and the people there spoke no English, but they were able to communicate through gestures. They were surprised to find that the place had no telephone or modern conveniences. All of the furniture was of heavy wood construction. They found their rooms and shared bathroom quite old-fashioned. The next morning, after a good sleep, they packed up and went down for breakfast. Wanting a memento of their stay, one of the gentlemen took several photographs of the place. The English couples were shocked to discover their entire bill was only 19 francs (about $3.00)! They showed the bill to a policeman but he nodded that it was correct. They paid the bill and left. Sometime later, on their way back to England, they decided to stay at the same inn again. They could find no trace of the building! The local tourist board claimed that no such place existed! After they got back to England they developed the films from the trip. There was no trace of the three photographs that had been taken![27] Is this a case of mass delusion or did they indeed travel back in Time to spend the night at a place that is no longer there?

In 1980, while in the U.S. Navy, I was attending the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, California. Since I could not afford a car, I bought a moped for transportation. One night, after seeing a movie in the nearby town of Carmel, I was on my way back to the barracks. I decided to try a different route. The night was cold and a thick fog descended, limiting visibility. I seemed to be the only one on the road that night and I felt completely alone. Suddenly, in the woods on both sides of the road, I could hear the sounds of animals. A sweat broke out all over me. Something large, mostly hidden in the fog, ran across the road in front of me. Then something with leathery wings flew over my head in the opposite direction. At this point I began to be quite scared and I worked hard to get an extra mile per hour or two out of the moped. Several minutes later (it seemed an eternity), the fog began to thin out. I was safe. I never made a long trip at night on the moped again. What happened that night? Did I imagine that I saw and heard prehistoric creatures, or did it happen like I described? I've noticed in literature that a lot of unexplained phenomena happen in the proximity of a fog or mist.

This brings us to one of the most fascinating, related areas of this subject: Cryptozoology. Basically, this is the study of animals that do not belong when a[nd] where they have been seen or are unknown to presen[t] day science.

Related to the previously mentioned sea monsters are stories of lake monsters. Around the world, people have claimed to have seen unknown creatures in many of the large, landlocked bodies of water. Loch Ness in Scotland is the most famous home of a lake monster but by no means the only one. Ancient legends of the *Water Horse* or *Kelpie* of Loch Ness go back to the prehistoric days of the Picts, the original inhabitants of Scotland. St. Columba, an Irish monk that converted many pagans to Christianity, is reported to have encountered the Loch Ness Monster in 565 A.D. Modern sightings go back to 1933, when a number of sightings of V-like wakes on the loch were made. Since then, dozens of sightings have been made. A number of photographs and motion pictures have been made of *Nessie*. Some of the most fascinating photos ever taken were the Robert Rines underwater shots made in 1972 and 1975. One of these photos appears to contain the head and neck of a reptilian creature. Another is the famous "flipper" picture which seems to show the diamond-shaped fin of some water-dwelling beast.[28] I could not help but feel an air of mystery or expectation as I stood beside Loch Ness in 1984. Alas, I was not fortunate enough to have seen anything in the loch. The sightings and investigations still continue.

Okanagan Lake in British Columbia appears to be the home of a lake monster which has been named *Ogopogo* by locals. It was seen by the Indians long before the white man reached the Pacific. The Okanakane Indians called it *N'ha-a-aitk* (lake monster) and the Chinook Indians called it *Ook-ook mis-achie coupa lake* (the wicked one in the lake) or *Hyas-hyas gust scaca coupa lake* (the huge animal in the lake). More recent sightings have been made from the late 1700's to the present. The creature is protected by law, even though proof of its existence has not been positively established.[29]

Three young Greek men in Western Crete were surprised on July 9, 1987 to see a "giant, dark grey bird" glide overhead. They were impressed by the fact that the "bird" looked more like a giant bat since its wings were like leather stretched over long, skinny bones. They were even more amazed when they looked through books to identify the "bird" and found that it looked just like a pterodactyl![30] What was a flying dinosaur, supposedly extinct for millions of years, doing flying over Crete two years ago?

During the last twenty years there have been literally dozens of sightings of kangaroos hopping around the United States. Some of these creatures have been seen by very credible witnesses. A good example of this mystery is the event that occurred in Chicago on October 18, 1974. An excited citizen called police to report that a kangaroo was on his porch. Two police officers were dispatched to take a look. They were surprised to actually find a 'roo hopping down the street. Eventually, the

licemen cornered the kangaroo in an alley and tried to grab it. The creature lashed out at the officers, injuring one, then hopped the fence and escaped. What is so confusing about these cases is that every zoo in the area reported that all of their kangaroos were accounted for.[31] Of course, there is the old theory that they are escapees from secret collectors.

Another wide-spread mystery centers around the phantom panthers or pumas that have been seen throughout North America and England. Although the Americas still harbor several living species of great cats, such as the mountain lion and jaguar, all such animals have long been extinct in England. The last of the great cats of England lived some 10,000 years ago. Now only a small wildcat, not much bigger than the ordinary house cat, exists in the Highlands of Scotland. Yet, during the past 20 to 25 years, there have been thirteen major groups of sightings of panthers or pumas in England. In August of 1982, a large, sandy-colored cat was seen off and on in the Fobbing area of Essex. This creature became known as the "Fobbing Puma." Another more famous series of sightings was made in 1983 in Exmoor. A huge, black panther-like cat, called "The Exmoor Beast" or "The Black Beast of Exmoor" was blamed for the deaths of 80-100 lambs and ewes over a two month period. Large cats like these should not exist in England and yet they are seen over and over again. Although the "escaped animal" theory is popular, all zoos and private collectors have reported no animals missing.[32] Where do they come from and where do they go?

Ghosts. The mention of these elusive "spirits" brings many different things to mind. Some people think of misty graveyards, others immediately think of an abandoned mansion, and still others think of pathetic, earthbound souls that are unable to go on to their final rest. But what are ghosts? Most people that believe in ghosts think that they are the spiritual remains of a deceased person. I will not be recounting any specific cases on this subject because of the sheer bulk of literature on ghosts. Suffice it to say, there have been millions of reports of ghosts through history and many hundreds of books on the subject.

If a ghost is the spirit or soul of a deceased person, then how do you explain the equally represented cases of animal ghosts? Most Western religions say that *only* Man has a soul. Therefore, either ghosts are souls or they are not. If they *are* souls, then humans as well as animals have a soul, and organized religion is wrong. If they are *not* the souls of deceased beings, then they are something else. But what? Could it be that they are products of the mind, an electro-magnetic phenomenon (much like a video-recording) of nature or a projection of a being from the past or future? Many reports of ghosts are most likely hoaxes and many others are "tricks of the light", but a certain number of the hundreds of thousands of cases are based on an *actual* occurrence of some sort. Let's not also forget that ghost ships and trains have been reported for many years, too. It goes without saying that a man-made object cannot or should not have a "soul". I think that some sort of "projection" phenomenon is to blame for the majority (if not all) of the cases that are not hoaxes or explainable.

Oõparts or *erratics* are artifacts or objects that are found somewhere they should not or cannot be. The discovery of a Roman coin in an ancient American Indian grave or a pocket knife inside a lump of granite could be examples of these mysterious items. These finds are by no means rare and I have heard rumors of several cases where archaeologists are suspected of destroying finds that do not belong in a certain deposit to prevent the anomalous item from discrediting accepted theories.

In November 1869, workers in the Abbey mine near Treasure City, Nevada discovered a chunk of feldspar which contained a 2-inch metal screw. The deposit it came from was formed long before man existed.[33]

Three rockhounds were looking for semiprecious specimens in the Coso Mountains of California on February 13, 1961. They gathered several sacks of stones, including a number of geodes (thunder eggs). Later, when one of them sawed through one of the geodes with a diamond saw, they were surprised to find a ceramic and metal object inside that somewhat resembled a modern *spark plug*.[34]

One of the most classic of these *oõparts* is the gold artifact that was discovered inside an ancient tomb in Colombia. The find is at least 1000 years old. Originally, the piece was thought to be a stylized bird or butterfly. But, from the photograph of it that I have seen, it is obvious that it looks like a supersonic delta-wing jet! The wings and fuselage are there, as well as a vertical stabilizer and cockpit.[35] How did the people of pre-Columbian South America see a jet? Did some plane that mysteriously vanished from our time reappear over South America several centuries ago to be seen and copied?

Other intriguing finds are platinum ornaments found in Peru and a belt containing aluminum parts in China. The technology to melt platinum and extract aluminum from bauxite ore are supposedly recent inventions. In several locations in the Middle East, ancient crystal lenses have been found. Such lenses can only be made today by modern electro-chemical methods. The last of these fascinating finds are the electric battery parts found in Iraq. After reassembling one of these "batteries" and adding acid, researchers produced an electrical current.[36] Were Babylonians using electricity centuries before Volta or Galvani?

The "lost civilization" and "ancient astronaut" theories have been very popular over the past couple of decades. Those people who believe in Atlantis, Lemuria, Mu, and other great, lost civilizations are a large group. Authors like Charles Berlitz, Brad Steiger and Andrew Tomas have written on great civilizations that equalled our own and that were destroyed in natural and/or man-made catastrophes. Modern researchers and scientists have demolished most of the Atlantis myth. There is no geological or geographical support for these lost lands. Many now believe that the Atlantis that Plato originally

wrote about was probably based on the faded memories of the fall of the great Minoan-Mycenaean civilization. That civilization had fallen not long after a natural disaster destroyed Thera, the island where many important Mycenaean leaders had homes. Thera is the modern island of Santorini.[37]

What about the supporters of the "ancient astronaut" theories? Erich von Däniken and Maurice Chatelain are strong spokesmen for this theory. Basically, they claim that alien astronauts came to Earth in the misty past and had a great impact on Man's development. These writers claim that many unexplainable artifacts, statues and illustrations, as well as the pyramids and the pictures on the Nazca Plain, are evidence of the ancient visits. Many people now believe that their ideas are a bit far-fetched or ridiculous, and there has been a gradual loss of supporters. The problem I see is that it is just *too* convenient to explain everything mysterious on *alien* visitors. Circumstantial evidence can be interpreted (or mis-interpreted) many ways.

Nevertheless, there are many things that would seem to support the idea that humans or human-like beings were around long before they should have been. The discovery of certain oöparts seems to suggest that someone was there and dropped something that was later fossilized or surrounded by solid rock. What would someone a million years from now think if they dug up a Coke bottle or an electronic watch?

In the Valley of the Giants in the Paluxy River area of Texas, hundreds of preserved dinosaur tracks have been discovered. Many scientists feel that this place is an important find. Paradoxically, though, in one place there are the clear impressions of what some people claim to be large *human* footprints in the same strata as dinosaur tracks. The tracks have been dated to 140,000,000 years ago or about 136,000,000 years before Man existed. The creationists and the "lost civilization" people were very happy, while the scientific community cried hoax.[38] It is now thought that they are unusual dinosaur tracks.

Another even more puzzling find was made on June 3, 1968. William Meister, his wife and two daughters were fossil hunting near Antelope Springs, Utah. In a promising area, they began to dig. As they worked, a slab of rock split open, revealing the perfectly preserved impressions of two human feet that had been wearing *flat-soled shoes*! Even more shocking was the trilobite fossil under one heel. Trilobites had become extinct long before even the dinosaurs had existed![39] What was a man wearing shoes or sandals doing walking along a shoreline some 440,000,000 years ago? What would we do if fossilized Nike or Adidas shoeprints were found next to dinosaur tracks? Nevertheless, unexplainable finds tend to shake up the scientific community and cause havoc with our accepted history of the world and Man.

* * * * *

Throughout this article I have discussed a variety of unexplainable phenomena and events -- ships and aircraft that disappear without a trace or appear fr nowhere, animals that are seen where and when th should not be, people who seem to visit the past, ghosts, and things that are found where they should not be, etc. When looked at, most (if not all) of these things seem to be unrelated items. But is that really the case? What is more believable, dozens of different, unrelated phenomena, operating independently, causing these anomalous events, or some as yet unknown phenomenon of Time and Space that causes varying degrees of effects? At a low intensity this phenomenon of Time could act as a *window*, allowing the image of something to cross over. At a greater intensity, the phenomenon might act as a *time warp* or *doorway*, allowing one or two-way transfer. One can only guess what the effects of an even greater intensity could be.

So, let's go back over these mysteries or anomalies and try to find explanations for them:

Sea monsters, lake monsters and other animals: There are five general possibilities here: These creatures are alive here and now, they are the "ghosts" of now-extinct creatures, they come and go through some unexplained function of Time, they are hoaxes, or they are misindentified or unknown creatures. If sharks, turtles, lizards, crocodiles and snakes have survived from the Age of the Dinosaurs, then it is possible sea-dwelling and lake-dwelling dinosaurs did, too. As for phantom cats, they could be escapees or descendants of escapees, or they can be existing species that are returning to their old ranges. On the other hand, since these things are only seen intermittently, it is very possible that they are not *here* all the time and something brings them forward and then pulls them back. This could be a good explanation for Bigfoot or the Yeti, since many researchers feel that they could be examples of extinct australopithecines or other hominids. Confusion and hoax explain quite a few of these sightings.

Disappearances: It is entirely possible that *every* ship or plane that has disappeared without a trace is the victim of known meteorological/oceanographical or man-caused (piracy, sabotage, etc.) events. Unknown weather or ocean phenomena are possible, but highly unlikely. Perhaps a doorway in Time opens up briefly and takes the ship or plane *elsewhen*. A very slight possibility is that aliens or Atlanteans do exist and they are taking ships and planes as *specimens*. Disappearances of people, as mentioned before, are most likely due to crime or intentional flight.

Appearances: Unknown aircraft and blimps appearing from nowhere could have been constructed by unknown parties in secret. The Wright Brothers were not the first to attempt manned flight, but they were apparently the first to succeed in 1903. These aircraft could be from some other time and projected (for awhile) into our world. Ships and cars may be the real thing seen in unusual conditions, projected images or things that were displaced from some other time. A living, breathing person or animal that appears from nowhere can only be explained by being transported there somehow.

Unidentified Flying Objects: It is very possible that *every* UFO sighting *can* be explained. They may be airplanes, birds, meteorological or astronomical phenomena, optical illusions, "swamp gas" or reflections of lights. Many are definitely hoaxes or products of a mental aberration. They could be secret weapons or aircraft being tested by the government or a foreign country. They might just be alien spacecraft, here to study us. Or they may be time machines from our own future -- coming back to observe us for historical study or simple tourism.

Temporal dis-location: When people are in an unfamiliar or new area, it is easy to become disoriented or confused. Later, they may have a mixed up recollection of the actual events. Fear, anxiety or other emotional/mental states can cause all sorts of unexplainable things. The images or actual physical substance of something might be pulled from the past to where the witness is. Conversely, the person may pass through a doorway to another place and time. And, of course, the person could have made the whole thing up to cover up the real reason they were late or missing (eg, an affair or other surreptitious activity).

Ghosts and other apparitions: These have been with us probably longer than any other phenomenon. They may be the essence or "soul" of a deceased person or animal, they could be a projection of the image of some being through Time, they could be living people or animals seen under unusual conditions, or they could be practical jokes on the observer. Optical illusions, shadows, plants and other "tricks of light" are certainly the reasons for many sightings. Other beings, such as angels, demons, leprechauns, fairies, sprites, pixies or elves *could* exist and appear from time to time. Or some electro-geomagnetic phenomenon unknown to us "records" or "implants" an event or image on the area where they are seen. Under the right conditions, the image or event is "played back" by some process.

Oöparts and erratics: These fascinating finds could be freaks of geology -- they coincidentally look like an item we know. An unknown people or great civilization might existed ages ago and only a few traces of their technology or works have survived. Some unknown force occasionally "picks up" everyday items up and "drops" them in various times and places. The items were possibly left by alien spacemen while surveying our planet, or maybe our descendants have perfected time travel and are exploring through the ages. Things may drop out of their pockets and be preserved. And, of course, some of these out-of-place artifacts may be deliberate hoaxes.

Ancient Astronauts, etc.: The universe is an incredibly large place. It is entirely possible that a race of beings arose on another planet and, after perfecting interstellar flight, came here to explore. These aliens may have come once or off and on throughout history. They may have taught things to primitive man, given him superior tools, helped the Egyptians to build the pyramids, and drawn the lines at Nazca. It is more likely, though, that Man's own inventiveness and creativity is the source of *all* things that have been attributed to alien astronauts. And, of course, time travelers from our future may have gone back and interacted with their ancestors. We should not laugh at this idea -- look at how far our technology has advanced in the past one hundred years; the Wrights at Kitty Hawk to the men on the moon happened in less than 70 years. What great discoveries and inventions lie 70 or 700 years into our future? All things may be possible, given enough time.

There is no chance in the space available to completely explain or present every possible theory on the anomalies I have discussed. To do any justice to this subject, it would take a large team of physicists and scientists several lifetimes to get the job done. It is always possible that we will *never* solve all of Time's mysteries. Nevertheless, I have presented the most obvious possibilities of reasons for these mysteries. In reviewing all of the theories, though, one common denominator is the fact that some Time-related phenomenon can explain any or all of these mysteries. Though it is not my intention to be the last word on the matter, I seems reasonable that I should present my own personal theory/theories for most Fortean mysteries:

1. Some unknown phenomenon of Time exists on this planet that works as a transporter or camera. It can take an animate or inanimate object from some point in Time and project or transport it in another time, depending on the intensity of the effect. Whether this phenomenon is the work of nature itself, God, Satan, aliens, the power of human minds, or the repercussions throughout Time and Space of future experiments in time travel is unknown.

2. At some point in Man's future, he *will* experiment with and perhaps perfect a means to travel through time. When this occurs, historians and scientists will travel back through Earth's history to actually see the real events as they happened. These travelers' footprints and litter could be preserved down to *our* present to baffle us. These visitors from the future are a good explanation for strange, out-of-place people recorded throughout history -- such as the "white people" the Indians in North and South America saw in prehistoric times.[40] The time machines of these time travelers might look like "shiny discs" and be the explanation for the thousands of unexplained UFO sightings throughout history.

Are my theories logical or even possible? Yes, I feel that they are as good an explanation, if not more thorough, as any that I have read anywhere. I think that it is certainly more realistic than aliens from outer space hunting dinosaurs, throwing away spark plugs in primordial swamps, helping man build the pyramids, drawing star charts on cave walls, playing cat and mouse with our most advanced aircraft, taking people on joyrides to Venus, and kidnapping ships, planes and their crews for God knows what purposes. It is hard for me to believe that there are a hundred different causes for a dozen or so types of mysteries. Using aliens as a blanket theory is out in left field. Time seems to hold the real key.

Perhaps fifty or two hundred years from now, the answers to all of these mysteries will have long since been found. The final breakthrough could come at any time. But until that time, these fascinating, anomalous phenomena will continue to baffle and confound us. Perhaps Time does a lot more than wait for no man.

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23. Ken Meaux, "Time Traveler," Strange Magazine 2: 37.

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25. Abernathy.

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30. Thanassis Vembos, "A Prehistoric Flying Reptile?" Strange Magazine 2: 29.

31. David Fideler and Loren Coleman, "Kangaroos From Nowhere," The World's Strangest Mysteries, ed. Editors of Fate (Highland Park: Clark, 1983), p. 144-152.

32. Michael Goss, "Britain's Phantom Cats," Fate Sept. 1985: 60-61.

33. Frank Edwards, Strangest of All (New York: Ace, 1956), p. 100.

34. Brad Steiger, Mysteries of Time and Space (New York: Dell, 1974), p. 66-67.

35. Charles Berlitz, Mysteries of Forgotten Worlds (New York: Dell, 1972), p. 30.

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VISIT TO THE CRYPTOZOO

By J.L. Kelly

Hello! Welcome to your first visit to the Cryptozoo. I trust that you will enjoy your visit and will come back again and again. In the coming months, I will be talking about a wide range of cryptozoological sightings and specimens. Along the way, I hope to explore the possibilities of just why there seem to be so many out-of-place animals out there. I have studied all of the life sciences at one time or another, and have selected the exciting field of cyptozoology as my #1 after-work and weekend hobby. Since only a small handful of dedicated scientists can make a living as cryptozoologists, I've kept my regualar job. But, never fear, the hunt is on!

I suppose you might as well know that my favorite subject in cryptozoology is/are sea and lake monsters. Although I'll talk about these elusive "serpents" quite a bit, please don't worry. I will be writing about Bigfoot, the Yeti, phantom cats, kangaroos in the Mid-West, the Tasmanian Tiger, the possible survival of dinosaurs, and a whole host of other lesser known beasts of the shadow world. A lot of my columns may cross over with similar, related or complementary articles by our Editor. That's quite alright with me. I'm quite thankful to Mr. Gardner for giving me this opportunity to write on a subject I hold so near and dear. I hope to live up to his high standards.

Visit to the Cryptozoo will, of course, be my regular column. In addition to that, I may occasionally contribute to the not-in-every-issue **Out of the Blue, The Oöpart Observer, Raining Fish & Frogs, Look at the Little People**, and **Mysteries of the Deep** columns. Every regular contributor can write something for any column that *Elsewhen* carries. So, you never know... I might just pop up someday in Marcia's **Spotlight on Religion** or Jim's **Things That Go Bump...** columns.

Beginning next issue, I will start discussing the facts and possibilities behind lake monsters. This topic has become more and more popular over the last dozen years. Some researchers now feel that *every* large, deep, Northern lake may contain "monsters" of some sort. Just to think, it all started with a wee loch in Scotland! Now that I've gotten your attention, please make sure to come back next month. That's when I get down to business.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

This section is reserved each month for letters from our readers. Feel free to share your ideas, questions, and personal experiences. Spelling and grammar will be corrected, when necessary, only to make the text clear. The length of some letters may be shortened to allow room for other letters, so long as the intent of the letter is not changed.

Dear Mr. Gardner,

I believe that time displacement occurs as a physical thing -- not mental. I once had an experience when I was working as a railroad agent in Pennsylvania.

It was a humid summer afternoon and I decided to take a nap. I laid on the floor and was soon gone. I woke up to find it was night. I was amazed to think that I had slept into the night. I looked at the clock -- it said 4:45 P.M. The sun should have been out!

I laid down again, then soon awakened to find that the sun was out and it was 4:30 P.M. I got up and walked outside to clear my head.

While walking, I heard thunder over a large mountain to the west and watched a severe thunderstorm approaching. I went back in the station and it got dark as night [outside]. I looked at the clock which now read 4:45 P.M.! A fifteen minute time anomaly?

J.R.
Oak Ridge, NJ

[This is an interesting experience whether it was a time anomaly or a premonition of some sort - Ed.]

Dear Mr. Gardner,

I have been studying the phenomena of ghosts and hauntings for the last ten years, and have come to the conclusion that many of the reported sightings are, in fact, fleeting glimpses back in time... Many ghosts seem to behave like "sleepwalkers" or like a loop of film [repeating] over and over again.

The old Spanish mission of La Purisima Concepcion near Lompoc, California, is today a museum. It was founded in 1787 and reconstructed in 1941. While visiting the church on the afternoon of July 12, 1980, walking toward the altar, I suddenly saw six or seven Indians crouching on the floor. The Indians were dressed in tattered rags and had long, dirty, matted hair. I was shocked at the wretchedness of these poor creatures. The image lasted about three seconds, then vanished. I recalled one Indian's face was scarred with pockmarks. Later, I purchased a booklet at the Mission Gift Shop and found a reference to the poverty of the mission after 1810 -- with shortages of clothing and blankets, as well as the spread of diseases such as smallpox. Could this have been a vision of the past?

R.S.
Ventura, CA

Dear Mark Gardner,

In August 1977 I was on a motor yacht with six others about 15 miles off Cape Hatteras, N.C. By the ship's clock it was 3:15 A.M. and I was on watch at the bow. With no stars or moon, it was a pretty dark night. Suddenly, I noticed a brilliant white light about 5 miles ahead of us and it was slowly, but surely, coming towards us. As it came closer, I realized that it was a sailing vessel, like a schooner, within the glow. I rang the bridge to tell the captain that there was a ship heading for us. It seemed as [if] it was battling a heavy sea, even though there wasn't a breath of wind on that hot, sultry night. By now everyone was on deck to watch it quickly slip astern of us into the night. Until then, I had never seen anything so strange. You could hear a "swish" as it passed by and I could see the glint of copper along its side. We saw no one on its deck, but the ship was bad enough!

J.H.
Newark, DE

[Yet another mystery of the sea - Ed.]

Dear Mark,

[The following] happened in the late 50's:

My husband had gone to work at midnight. Such a beautiful night -- full moon shining down on [the] driveway and garage door that I was facing as I sat behind the house with a cup of coffee and a cigarette.

Suddenly I noticed about 5 shapes sort of bouncing down the garage door. As these shapes went on down, 5 more took their place. Finally I got up, walked to the driveway, and looked out into the street. There were soldiers marching, bearing arms, [and] wearing leggings like they were in World War I... The bouncing shapes were soldiers marching downhill, casting the shadows on my garage door as they passed in front of the moon. Neighbors were all in bed. I often wondered if anyone else ever witnessed what I did that night. What did I see? [There were] at least a hundred men in all. I watched at least three full minutes until they gradually began to fade away and finally just disappeared.

B.B.
Phoenixville, PA

[Ghost armies are by no means rare - Ed.]

Dear Mr. Gardner,

Everyone has their own view of the 1908 Tunguska "event". Could the cause of the explosion be a *methane comet*? That is, a comet composed largely of frozen methane. Such a body *could change course*. For as the atmosphere's friction heated the body, a pocket of methane on its side could explode, such explosion causing a course change. And of course the larger explosion later would consume the comet.

Hugh Trotti
Decatur, GA

THE HAND OF FATE

In 1985, 26-year old Roberta Sikoff of Culver City, California, was arrested for bank robbery after someone stole her getaway bicycle. She had previously stolen it.

* * * * *

Enterprising businessman Ron Jordan of England succeeded all too well as he stood on a wet London street corner selling umbrellas during a torrential downpour. So many customers lined up to buy umbrellas that he was arrested for obstructing the sidewalk.

* * * * *

A brave French fireman was killed while trying to save the life of a 450-pound woman who leaped from the second story of a burning apartment building. Before Alain Montour, 35, was killed, he had successfully rescued three children, two old ladies, and a cat from the smoke-filled building. He was just coming out of the building when he heard the screams of the obese, trapped woman coming from above. Standing beneath the window, Montour convinced the huge woman to jump to safety. The immense lady woman landed right on Montour, killing him instantly. She suffered only minor injuries and shock.

* * * * *

Bone-headed city officials in Göteborg, Sweden, decided they could save some money by lowering the temperature of the ponds at the Göteborg Maritime Museum. An alligator, believed to have been the world's oldest specimen in captivity at 65, died of the cold. Embarrassed officials realized their mistake too late to save the poor animal.

* * * * *

Children in Cornwall, England, who w a competition to think up new ways to g consumers to purchase British-made products were awarded Japanese-made radios as prizes.

* * * * *

40,000 pavement bricks in a Sydney, Australia, neighborhood, which had only been in place for a short time, needed to be replaced because of the heavy beating they'd received from locals -- high-heeled prostitutes.

* * * * *

A Swedish business consultant named Ulf af Trolle finally had completed his economics book after thirteen long years. He took the 250-page manuscript into a shop to have it copied. The bad news: An employee confused a copy machine with a paper shredder. At the last report, a team of young people hired by af Trolle were hard at work, trying to piece the thing back together strip by strip.

DID YOU KNOW...?

One of the most beloved movie songs of all time almost ended up on the cutting room floor. MGM boss Sam Goldwyn thought that **The Wizard of Oz** was too long and ordered the song "Over the Rainbow" to be cut from the movie. Fortunately, the subordinate disobeyed that instruction.

When Walt Disney Studios was making **Snow White and the Seven Dwarves**, they considered about sixty names for the dwarves before they settled on the ones we all know. Some of the rejected names were Dirty, Awful, Lazy, Stubby, Weepy, and Gabby.

The Following Are Some of the Exciting Subjects Covered in *ELSEWHEN*:

- ✓ Time Travel & Time Warps
- ✓ Lake Monsters & Sea Serpents
- ✓ Bigfoot and the Abominable Snowman
- ✓ Cryptozoological Specimens/Sightings
- ✓ Ghosts, Poltergeists & Hauntings
- ✓ Vampirism & Lycanthropy
- ✓ UFO's and USO's
- ✓ Lost Civilizations & Technology
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- ✓ Out of Place Artifacts
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